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or prepositional phrases in Notker. M.H.G. remains somewhat conservative. The greatest change, as Vornaleken implies (*Deutsche Syntax*, Vol. ii, p. 23), occurs after the sixteenth century.

In German, *spielen* is used with the genitive or the accusative. I have been able to find no examples of *spielen* with the genitive in the other Germanic languages. In O.H.G. and M.H.G. the genitive appears the more frequently; in N.H.G., the accusative. In fact, N.H.G. always uses the accusative if, as Grimm says (*Grammatik*, iv, 673), we except the games of children; for example, *kammerchens, versteckens, fanges, etc., spielen*. One example from O.H.G. and one from M.H.G. will suffice.

Notker, ed. Piper, Vol. i, 60.24: *tisses spiles spilon ih (ludum ludimus)*. Neidhart, 19.26: *Spil wir kint balles*.

Other examples may be found: Grimm, *Grammatik*, iv, 673; Baldes (see above); Graff vi, 331; Lexer, 1094; Vornaleken, ii 45.*

ERNEST IRVING ANTRIM.

Göttingen.

THE ANGLO-SAXON *geðæf*.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—In addition to the numerous examples from *Boethius* containing some form of *gepafa beon* in the sense of *to acknowledge, confess*,¹ the following from Alfred's *Blooms*² may be noted:

þonne sceal ic beo þæs geðafa 342, 44. *ic eom gepafa þæs þe þu me segst* (Lat. *3 Fateor, ita est*) 343, 15. *Hu ne were þu ær geðafa þæt ic nan wiht ne lufode, etc.* 345, 34. *Gif ðu hyt ongittan hæbbe, ne hel hyt me, ac beo hys geðafa . . . and beo geðafa þæt þu æart hys þeowa . . . Da cwæð ic, þæs ic eom geðafa, etc.* 349, 7, 12, 42. *ymbe hwæt twæost þu nu? Hu nu ne were ðu ær geðafa, þæt god were æce and ælmihtih, etc.,* 350, 27.

These examples would all seem to confirm Blackburn's rendering of *ond hira geðæf bion* (Sweet's *Cura Past.*, p. 23, l. 22.).

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* Other communications criticizing Mr. Meyer's explanation of the phrase have been received from Professor H. C. G. Brandt and Dr. F. G. G. Schmidt. Ed.

¹ Cf. Prof. Blackburn's Note, MOD. LANG. NOTES for Feb., 1896.

² Cf. *Engl. Stud.* xviii, 332 ff.

³ Augustine, *Soliloq.* Lib. I, Cap. ix, 16.

WILLIE-WAUGHT.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—In the sample pages of a new manual of English literature, now lying before us, we read

"And we'll tak a right guid *willie-waught*,"

as we have read it fifty times before, and the usual note "*willie-waught*, hearty draught"; one editor copying text and note from another, like sheep jumping over a hedge.

It takes but a very moderate acquaintance with the Scottish tongue to know that there is no such word as *willie-waught*, which nobody ever saw, except in this line. A *waught*, or *waucht*, for a draught, is common enough, and so is *gude-willie*, for hearty, cordial. Some printer—perhaps that of Johnson's *Museum* in which the poem first appeared—misplaced a hyphen, and the world is pestered with *willie-waught* for a hundred years. Jamieson, in his *Scot. Dict.* prints the line correctly. Mr. Douglas, the editor of the excellent Edinburgh (1877) edition of Burns, very justly says: "*Willie-waught* is nonsense; but *gude-willie* or *ill-willie* is a compound adjective in every-day use." Can nobody take this ugly spook of a word to a cross-roads and drive a stake through it?

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THE AFRICAN *gnu*.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—In a recent inquiry concerning the Hottentots of S. Africa, the question came to my mind whether it might be possible to refer the nomen *gnu* 'an african antelope species,' to the aryan *gō*. This word exists as *go, gu, gaus, gawa* in Sanskrit and obtains in some form in the insular Indian dialects.

I assume an intercourse between the Aryan group and the red or yellowish-brown races of S. Africa, but give neither time nor space relationship. There are many things, particularly the family cult and the gender distinction, that may be referred to an Aryan stimulus. S. African prefers *ū* to *ō*; cf. S. African *zebu* to E. Indian *zobo*. The peculiar sound system of the Hottentots would give to cons. *g* a sound whose phonetic value would be approximately *gn*.

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